



HEARD ACROSS MONTANA

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Department of Justice Financial Training

By Scott Bradford sbradford@mt.gov

Public Safety Services Bureau (PSSB) staff member Scott Bradford attended a Department of Justice (DOJ) sponsored Grant Financial Management Training in Washington D.C. Jan. 30-31. In Sept. of 2007, PSSB received a six-million dollar Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) grant to directly support the Interoperability Montana (IM) Project. PSSB has also utilized a Bureau of Justice Assistance Planning Grant to support IM and State of Montana communications planning. Both grants are administered by the Department of Justice. Information from the training will allow the IM Project Directors (IMPD) to better manage and track grant resources.

IM Governance & Project Directors Meetings

By E. Wing Spooner espooner@mt.gov

The Interoperability Montana (IM) Governance Committee met Monday Feb. 4, while the IM Project Directors (IMPD) met Tuesday Feb. 5. Both meetings were in Helena. Issues related to election procedures, finance and governance were finalized during the Governance Committee meeting and presented to the IMPD for its approval.

In the first order of business, the IMPD approved moving Chief Alan Michaels forward in the Chair positions to become Chair of the IMPD and moving County Commissioner Joe Brenneman from Second Vice Chair to First Vice Chair. An election will be held in March for the Second Vice Chair position.

The board also took action on a number of other items, including making a formal request to extend FY05 Homeland Security Grant monies at least through Sept. 2008, extending the current Project Management contract with Northrop Grumman to the end of March, directing PSSB to provide assistance to the IMPD in the area of purchasing, and adopting IM Policy Directive 2.0, Fiscal and Finance Responsibilities. In addition, Keith Lavender, Northrop Grumman, was appointed the interim finance officer of the IM Project. The board also decided to pursue plans for a retreat in conjunction with the Governor's Emergency Preparedness Summit in Billings on April 24-25.

Discussion took place about staffing, and the IMPD agreed to move forward with four initiatives as follows: 1) Follow through on the Statement of Work (SOW) for Project Management, 2) Formulate an MOU and/or SOW with PSSB for areas of specific support to the IM Project, 3) Establish the IM Project

as a public entity and an agent of county government through IRS processes, and 4) Examine the need for a high level of administration and technical expertise to manage the IM Project statewide.

Several standing committees and sub-committees presented reports, including Fleet Mapping, SOW, IM Technical Committee (IMTC), Frequency, Network Design, Encryption, Dispatch Connectivity, and the Second Caster Control Site. Don Brostrom resigned as Chair of the IMTC. Bob McWilliams is now the Acting Chair. A total of four sites will be evaluated by an outside contractor to determine the best location for the second master controller.

The next IMPD meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 4, in Helena at the State Capitol, Room 152.

Canadian Interoperability Technology Interest Group Meetings

By Scott Bradford sbradford@mt.gov

Scott Bradford, PSSB, was invited by the Canadian government to participate in two regional Canadian Interoperability Technology Interest Group (CITIG) forums held in Calgary, Alberta on Feb. 5 and Edmonton, Alberta on Feb. 7. The CITIG is a relatively new organization in Canadian interoperable planning and is modeled after the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC) in the United States. The CITIG Program Manager is Inspector Lance Valcour with the Ottawa Police Service.

The State of Montana was invited to provide a border state's perspective on the history of interoperability initiatives, direction of planning, and how future plans might impact Canadian organizations. PSSB provided a summary of the Mutual Aid and Common Frequency system, support of the Interoperability Montana Process, Montana's approach to governance, and the development of the Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP). PSSB also presented a letter to the group from Governor Brian Schweitzer, which commended their efforts and pledged Montana's support and cooperation.

Chippewa Cree Tribal Meeting

By Pete Mohan pmohan@mt.gov

Cheri Kilby, Central Montana Interoperability Consortium (CMICC) Project Director, met with several Chippewa Cree Tribe representatives from natural resources, emergency medical services, and information technology at the Rocky Boy's



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Reservation on Wed. Feb. 6 to discuss the Interoperability Montana (IM) Project.

Among items discussed were: tribal processes, the Interlocal Agreement, communications site lease, site user agreements, and tribal representation at CMICC. At the conclusion of the meeting, all parties were aware of project benefits and requirements.

State of Montana Selected for Next Generation 9-1-1 Initiative

By E. Wing Spooner espooner@mt.gov

The US Department of Transportation announced that the State of Montana was selected as one of five locations across the nation to participate in a Proof of Concept demonstration and testing of Next Generation 9-1-1 technology. Other test locations are the Emergency Communications Department for the City of Rochester, NY; King County's E9-1-1 System in Seattle, WA; the Metropolitan Emergency Services Board in St. Paul, MN and the Indiana Wireless 9-1-1 Board for the State of Indiana. Montana was one of 50 applicants for the award.

The Next Generation 9-1-1 Initiative is a U.S. Department of Transportation research and development project that will help define the system and plan for deploying Internet Protocol (IP) technology-based emergency services throughout the nation.

The 1999 Wireless Communications and Public Safety Act encourages states to deploy a comprehensive emergency communications infrastructure based on a coordinated statewide plan.

According to Becky Berger, 9-1-1 Program Manager in the Public Safety Services Bureau (PSSB), "Montana has taken the lead in deploying a statewide wireless enhanced 9-1-1 network. The current system being deployed across Montana provides a cost effective E9-1-1 system that will provide a seamless migration to Internet Protocol and Next Generation 9-1-1 system."

The Next Generation 9-1-1 Proof of Concept is expected to begin in April 2008 and last approximately 3 to 6 months. Data gathered during the Proof Concept project will be analyzed and used to revise the proposed system and complete a transition plan for the nation.

A complete description of the Next Generation 9-1-1 Initiative may be found at <http://www.its.dot.gov/ng911>.

Upcoming Meetings

February 13

South Central Montana Consortium (SCMIC)
Bozeman • 10:00 am
Emergency Operations Center, 219 East Tamarack

February 19

Western Interoperability Consortium (WICC)
Missoula • 10:00 am
Missoula Co. Courthouse, 200 W. Broadway

February 20

Eastern Tier (ETIC) • Glendive • 10:00 am
Law Enforcement Center; 440 Colorado Blvd.

February 21

I-15/90 Corridor Consortium
Butte • 10:00 am
Chamber of Commerce Conf. Rm.; 1000 George St.

February 22 or 25 (Note: Possible Change to Feb 22)

IM Technical Committee Face-to-Face Meeting
Helena • 9:00 am - 3:00 pm • State Capitol

February 27-29

IWCE Conference and Exposition
Las Vegas, NV

February 27

Tri-County Consortium • Helena • 10:00 am
DOC Annex Conf Rm.; Behind 515 N. Sanders St.

February 28

Mobile Data Terminal Consortium
Bozeman • 10:00 am
Best Western City Center Conf. Rm.; 507 W Main St.

February 28

Big Sky 11 • Billings • 10:00 am
Yellowstone County Fire Station 1 (EOC)
2305 8th Ave N.

March 3

IMGC Finance Sub-Committee
Helena • 9:00 am - Noon
Northrop Grumman Offices, 2401 Colonial Drive
IM Governance Committee
Helena • Noon - 5:00 pm
DOC Annex Conf. Rm.; Behind 515 N. Sanders St.

March 4

IM Project Directors (IMPD) Meeting
Helena • 9:00 am - 3:00 pm • State Capitol

March 5

Central Montana Consortium (CMICC)
Great Falls • 10:00 am
Wheat Building; 750 6th Street SW

March 12

Statewide Interoperability Executive Council (SIEC)
Helena • 10:00 am - Noon
Rm. 152, State Capitol